

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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WINTER-COVER CROP SEED PRODUCTION THIS YEAR
SMALLER THAN IN 1946 BUT ABOVE AVERAGE

Prospective production of winter-cover crop seeds this year, totaling 241.3 million pounds, is 2 percent smaller than that of 1946 (245.7 million) but about 18 percent above the 1941-45 average, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The decrease from last year is due to a smaller average yield per acre for these seeds as a group, which more than offsets the larger acreage. Smaller crops than last year are indicated at this time for common and Willamette vetch, Hungarian vetch, purple vetch, and common ryegrass in addition to crimson clover, which on June 30 was reported to be smaller this year than last. Larger crops are now indicated for Austrian Winter peas, hairy vetch, and perennial ryegrass in addition to lupine, which on July 15 was reported to be larger than last year.

Harvesting of Austrian Winter peas began about July 23 in western Oregon, about August 3 in Idaho, and about August 14 in eastern Oregon. Hairy-vetch seed harvest began about June 29 in Arkansas, July 25 in Oregon, and August 8 in Michigan.

Production of Austrian Winter peas is estimated at 60,950,000 pounds this year--8 percent larger than last year but 24 percent below the 1941-45 average. Idaho again was ahead of Oregon in the production of these peas. Vetch-seed production is estimated at 62,420,000 pounds. This is 13 percent less than last year and 8 percent below the 5-year average.

Hairy-vetch seed, accounting for 21,900,000 pounds of the vetch total, is the only one of the vetches for which prospective production exceeds that of last year. However, production of this seed in Texas, now estimated at 3,900,000 pounds, fell much below expectations. The purple-vetch crop is the smallest in six years, chiefly because of the hot, dry weather in California. Production of common and Willamette vetch (34,800,000 pounds) is indicated to be 23 percent smaller than last year but 12 percent above average.

Forecast at 51 million pounds, this year's crop of common-ryegrass seed is the second largest on record, being only 12 percent smaller than the record production of 58 million pounds in 1946. Perennial ryegrass production is forecast at 6.2 million pounds which compares with 5.6 million pounds produced last year.

The table below shows the current supplies of these seeds (1947 production plus carry-over by dealers and the Government) and of crimson-clover and blue-lupine seed for which estimates were made earlier this season. The table also shows supply figures for last year and the 1941-45 average.

<u>Kind of seed</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>1941-45</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
		1,000 pounds	
Austrian Winter peas	137,843	90,541	63,345
Hairy vetch	30,240	18,161	23,887
Other vetches	54,512	62,527	42,545
Common ryegrass	38,998	66,228	75,334
Perennial ryegrass	<u>1/</u> 3,580	<u>1/</u> 5,600	<u>1/</u> 6,200
Crimson clover	17,052	15,951	12,643
Blue lupine	2/ 9,162	38,901	50,088

1/ Production only. 2/ Short-time average.

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WINTER COVER CROP SEEDS - ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 1946, 1947 AND 5-YR. AVERAGE

Kind of Seed	Acreage harvested			Yield per acre			Production-clean seed		
and	Average:			Average:			Average:		
State	1941-45:	1946	1947	1941-45:	1946	1947	1941-45:	1946	1947
	<u>Acres</u>			<u>Pounds</u>			<u>Thousand pounds</u>		
HAIRY VETCH									
Michigan	1,880	1,800	1,500	241	160	135	474	290	200
Arkansas	9,460	9,800	13,000	208	160	325	1,960	1,600	4,200
Texas	1/	6,000	37,000	1/	265	105	1/	1,600	3,900
Washington	2,900	800	1,000	304	375	400	912	300	400
Oregon	88,800	38,000	48,000	235	230	275	20,400	8,700	13,200
U. S. TOTAL	103,040	56,400	100,500	233	221	218	23,746	12,490	21,900
1/ No estimates prior to 1946.									

COMMON AND WILLAMETTE VETCH									
Washington	4,520	2,000	1,500	581	750	800	2,452	1,500	1,200
Oregon	63,600	102,000	82,000	437	430	410	28,572	43,900	33,600
U. S. TOTAL	68,120	104,000	83,500	448	437	417	31,024	45,400	34,800

HUNGARIAN VETCH									
Oregon	9,340	2,900	2,600	453	450	450	4,260	1,300	1,200

PURPLE VETCH									
Washington	440	200	--	390	500	--	178	100	--
Oregon	2,500	2,500	1,800	270	350	400	654	880	720
California	21,600	34,000	28,000	384	340	135	8,162	11,600	3,800
U. S. TOTAL	24,540	36,700	29,800	369	343	152	8,992	12,580	4,520

ALL VETCH(U.S.)	205,040	200,000	216,400				68,022	71,770	62,420
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AUSTRIAN WINTER PEAS									
Idaho	15,420	26,000	24,000	1,115	1,440	1,350	16,560	37,400	32,400
Washington	13,200	2,000	3,000	1,020	1,250	1,300	14,160	2,500	3,900
Oregon	46,600	14,500	22,000	893	1,100	1,100	42,460	16,000	24,200
California	8,900	2,000	1,000	530	200	450	4,860	400	450
U. S. TOTAL	85,860	44,500	50,000	908	1,265	1,219	80,000	56,300	60,950

RYEGRASS-COMMON									
Oregon	73,000	98,000	90,000	358	550	525	29,500	158,000	251,000

1/ Includes 4,100,000 pounds screened from other crops.

2/ Includes 3,800,000 pounds screened from other crops.

RYEGRASS-PERENNIAL									
Oregon	14,300	16,500	17,300	247	340	360	3,580	5,600	6,200
ALL RYEGRASS	87,300	114,500	107,300				33,080	63,600	57,200

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